

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LISBON 04830 080733Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 /070 W
----- 033146

R 071550Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0957

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

DIA

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 4830

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: COUNCIL OF STATE HAS APPROVED MOST OF DRAFT

ELECTORAL LAW: ROLE IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

FOR AFM HINTED

REF: (A) LISBON 4529 (NOTAL); (B) LISON 4640 (NOTAL);

(C) LISBON A-116 (NOTAL); (D) LISBON 4776

SUMMARY: AS FINAL APPROVAL GRANTED TO MOST OF DRAFT ELECTORAL LAW, PERSISTENT ACCOUNTS ARISE THAT AFM WILL DEMAND A PARTICIPATORY ROLE IN WORK OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, PERHAPS UP TO 15 PERCENT OF TOTAL SEATS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE COUNCIL OF STATE HAS APPROVED WITH ONLY SLIGHT CHANGES THE FIRST PART OF THE DRAFT ELECTORAL LAW WHOSE HIGHLIGHTS PROVIDED IN REFTELS (VOTER REGISTRATION CAN NOW BEGIN AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LISBON 04830 080733Z

A RESULT). THE PART REMAINING FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION DEALS

PRIMARILY WITH LEGAL PENALTIES FOR ELECTORAL FRAUD, THE SUBSTANTIVE PROVISIONS HAVING ALREADY BEEN TAKEN UP AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS.

2. WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE DEPUTY FOR EACH 25,000 REGISTERED VOTERS, SOME 220 ODD SEATS WILL BE UP FOR GRABS IN THE ELECTIONS. YET TO BE DECIDED ARE THE NUMBER OF SEATS TO GO TO EMIGRANTS WHO QUALIFY TO VOTE.

3. EMBOFF HAS BEEN TOLD BY SOURCE CLOSE TO A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE THAT TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) TOLD THE COUNCIL OCT 23 AND AGAIN ON NOV 1 THAT THE AFM WANTS 15 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SEATS RESERVED FOR AFM MEMBERS. (EXPRESSO DIRECTOR BALSEMAO HAS REPORT THAT AFM SEEKING TOTAL OF 15 SEATS). COUNCIL HAS POWER TO INTRODUCE INTO THE DRAFT LEGISLATION AMENDMENTS, WHICH THEN MUST BE APPROVED BY MAJORITY VOTE IN THE CABINET TO BECOME LAW. THE TWO AFM REPS WERE LTC MANUEL RIBEIRO FRANCO CHARAIS, AND LCDR CARLOS DE ALMANDA CONTRERAS.

4. COUNCIL HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHAT RESPONSE TO MAKE TO AFM REQUEST, AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT AFM DIVIDED OVER QUESTION OF WHETHER IT SHOULD PLAY DIRECT ROLE IN ASSEMBLY'S WORK. CHARAIS, FOR EXAMPLE, ALLEGEDLY TOLD OUR INFORMANT'S SOURCE IN COUNCIL THAT HE PERSONALLY NOT SYMPATHETIC TO IDEA.

5. DIARIO DE NOTICIAS OF NOVEMBER 7 CARRIES ACCOUNT ON FRONT PAGE WHICH CORRESPONDS TO THAT FURNISHED EMBOFF. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER, WHICH CITES "TRUSTWORTHY SOURCES", POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT AFM MAY BE PRESENT IN FUTURE ASSEMBLY IN TWO FORMS: (A) AS OBSERVERS, ELECTED BY AFM ITSELF, WITHOUT RIGHT TO VOTE, WHOSE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO GUARD FULFILLMENT OF AFM PROGRAM ALONG WITH NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA AND COUNCIL OF STATE; AND (B) AS PARTICIPANTS, WITH A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE (SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 10 AND 20 PERCENT) OF THE TOTAL SEATS RESERVED FOR AFM MEMBERS.

6. COMMENT: AS REPORTED IN REF D, THERE ARE PERSISTENT RUMORS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE AFM COORDINAGINT COMMITTEE IS WORRIED THAT IN FREE ELECTIONS THE POPULACE WOULD VOTE A RELATIVELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LISBON 04830 080733Z

CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY INTO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, THE RESULT BEING A NEW CONSTITUTION NOT ENTIRELY TO THE LIKING OF THE AFM AND CERTAIN "PROGRESSIVE" PARTIES. THEREFORE WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE AFM ATTEMPTED TO PLACE OBSERVERS AND/OR PARTICIPANTS IN THE ASSEMBLY TO TRY TO ENSURE A FINISHED PRODUCT SUITABLE TO ITS INTERESTS. WHETHER IN THIS FORM, OR INSTITUTIONALIZED IN SOME OTHER WAY TO WATCH OVER PROCESS OF CHANGE IN FUTURE YEARS, AFM APPEARS TO HAVE

DECIDED TO SEEK A ROLE IN POLITICAL DECISION-MAING
PROCESS. WHILE IT MAY DO VIOLENCE TO DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL
THEORY, WE FEEL THAT PARTICIPATION OF AFM IN THIS PROCESS IS
REQUIRED BY POWER REALITIES. IN OUR OPINION, ACTUAL PRESENCE
OF AFM IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD AND
CONSTRUCTIVE WAY TO REFLECT THOSE REALITIES. WE ALSO FEEL
IT MUCH MORE HEALTHY FOR POLITICAL PROCESS THAT AFM MEMBERS
SIT IN ASSEMBLY EX-OFFICIO RATHER THAN DISTORT POLITICAL PARTY
BALANCE BY PARTICIPATION THROUGH PRESENCE ON ONE OR ANOTHER
PARTY LIST, ESPECIALLY SINCE MOST LIKELY LIST IN THIS CASE
WOULD BE COMMUNIST-FRONT MDP.
SCOTT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERIM GOVERNMENT, CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, ELECTION LAW, POLITICAL PARTIES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: Izenbel0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON04830
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740321-0631
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741163/aaaacbpw.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) LISBON 4529 (NOTAL); (B) LISON 4, 640 (NOTAL);
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: Izenbel0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2003 by Izenbel0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUNCIL OF STATE HAS APPROVED MOST OF DRAFT ELECTORAL LAW: ROLE IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005